# Crisis PR: How to Plan for the Unexpected



Danger

Opportunity

## **CRISIS**

"An unplanned event that has the potential to significantly impact your company's operability or credibility; or to pose a significant environmental, economic or legal liability."









# Crises are about victims

## CRISIS PLANNING

- Prepare leadership to effectively manage crisis communications
- Help staff respond in a unified, professional manner
- Strategically protect or enhance the organization's reputation
- Manage the distribution of critical, often sensitive, information to employees, clients, the media and public

## PRE CRISIS

Engage in proactive community relations

Create a crisis communication plan

## CRISIS PLAN

- Quick start
- CERT
- Crisis policies
- Crisis scenarios
- Media and key audience contact data

## CERT

### CRISIS EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

**CEO/Executive director** 

**CFO** 

Com director/spokesperson

Legal counsel

SME

Standby resources

## **PRIORITIES**

- **#1** Limit the problem, end the problem or at least control the problem.
- #2 Communicate with those most directly affected (victims and their families)
- **#3** Communicate with employees
- **#4** Communicate with those indirectly affected (clients, government officials, neighbors and community leaders)
- **#5** Communicate with the news media and other channels of external communication

# People who feel they are not being heard, speak louder.

## STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA

- Express sympathy and concern for the victims and families
- Communicate company action steps
- Express full cooperation with authorities or investigation

## MESSAGE TRIANGLE

**Supporting Message** Key Message

Supporting Message

**Supporting Message** 

# POST CRISIS

Secure loose ends
Recognition of Heroes
Media coverage assessment
Crisis communications review
Update plan

# Do the right thing.